## Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0068]:

[0068.1] Elements 12, 14, 16, 20, 22, 26, 28 of FIG. 3 are as previously introduced and discussed in connection with FIG. 1. Element 62 of FIG. 3 is introduced and discussed in connection with FIG. 4.

Please replace paragraph [0069] with the following amended paragraph:

[0069] Referring to FIG. 4, for each auction, the presentation layer 54 includes a buyer workspace 56 and a plurality of supplier workspaces 58. These workspaces are accessed by web browsers 16 and ,28 that execute on buyer and supplier machines 10, and 24 remote from the server. The buyer workspace enables a corporate purchase manager to conduct on on-line auction and to analyze bids submitted by suppliers in the course of such an auction. The supplier workspace 58 enables a supplier or vendor to search for and monitor on-line auctions, to analyze purchase requisitions, to submit bids to an on-line auction, and to negotiate contract terms directly with buyers.

Please replace paragraph [0071] with the following amended paragraph:

[0071] The web browsers 16, and 28 retrieve dynamically generated HTML web pages provided by the server 12. Because HTML web pages by themselves offer limited interactivity, the dynamically generated web pages include JavaScript encoded objects that execute on an auction participant's own machine 10, and 24. For example, a JavaScript object can generate a bid form for a supplier to fill out in response to that supplier's communication of an intent to bid. The JavaScript object can then perform preliminary checking, for example by verifying the logical consistency of information entered into the bid form, before communicating with the server 12. This reduces the number of processing tasks executed by the server 12 and thereby reduces system latency.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0087]:

[0087.1] Elements 1, 14, 22, and 26 of FIG. 4 are as previously introduced and discussed in connection with FIG. 1.

Please replace paragraph [0108] with the following amended paragraph:

[0108]    Once the RFQ has been created, a sequence of dynamically- generated web pages originating at the auction center 108 of FIG. 5 enables the buyer to open the auction. FIG. 10 shows one such web page provided to a buyer who intends to open the "Supplies" auction for bidding. The illustrated web page includes graphical elements that invite the buyer to specify an opening date and a closing date for an auction. Selecting "Supplies" and clicking on the "Open Auction" link causes the display of the web page shown in FIG. 11. By clicking on the "Open Right Now" button of FIG. 11, the buyer can immediately open the auction. Alternatively, the buyer can set an opening date and time other than the current date and time.

Please replace paragraph [0109] with the following amended paragraph:

[0109]    The suppliers are able to view available auctions using a web page originating at the bid center 112 of FIG. 5. As shown in the representative web page of FIG. 12, such a web page lists those auctions in existence and the state of each auction. An auction can be in one of five possible states. The auction can be created, in which case it has not been scheduled for opening. The auction can be pending, in which case it is scheduled to open on a specific date and time in the future. An auction can be open, in which case bids are being accepted, or closed, in which case no new bids are being accepted. Finally, an auction can be completed, in which case the buyer has already made awards to selected suppliers.

Please replace paragraph [0111] with the following amended paragraph:

[0111]    To bid at an auction, the supplier accesses a web page originating at the bid center 112 of FIG. 5. FIG. 13 shows a typical web page that would be seen by a supplier viewing an auction. In this particular auction, named "Supplies 2," a buyer has requisitioned certain pencils, lined paper, and fax paper. At the end of each requisition shown in FIG. 13 are two links: a "Bid" link and a "Messages" link. The "Messages" link, which invokes the integrated messaging service 84 of FIG. 4 of the infrastructure layer 66 of FIG. 3, is used by a supplier who seeks additional information or wishes to negotiate terms directly with the buyer. The "Bid" link leads to a web page, shown in FIG. 14, through which the supplier can submit a bid for the selected item. In this case, the buyer has clicked the "Bid" link next to the "Pencils" requisition of FIG. 13. As shown by the bid box, this supplier is offering to supply all 1000 pencils for $0.05 per pencil.

Please replace paragraph [0113] with the following amended paragraph:

[0113]   In a sealed auction, the structure of a bid can become more complex. This is because in a sealed auction, the auction management software 18 of FIG. 1 supports bids having volume discounts, fixed charges, bundled bids, and enforcement of minimum and maximum bid quantities.

Please replace paragraph [0119] with the following amended paragraph:

[0119]   In an auction for which bundled bids are supported, a web page originating at the bid center 112 of FIG. 5 and similar to that shown in FIG. 19 invites the supplier to make a bundled bid. To create a bundled bid, the supplier checks those items that are to be incorporated into the bundle and clicks the "Create Bundled Bid." Doing so generates a web page as shown in FIGS. 20A and 20B. For each item in the bundle, the supplier specifies how many units of each item are to be included in the bundle (400, 1000, and 100 respectively). The buyer then specifies the offer price for the bundle ($7350) and the number of bundles available (1-10). These are all shown in the lower half of the web page, shown in FIG. 20B.

Please replace paragraph [0121] with the following amended paragraph:

[0121]   When opening an auction, a buyer has the option of specifying a time at which the auction will close. When the specified time arrives, the workflow engine 72 of FIG. 4 automatically closes the auction.

Please replace paragraph [0122] with the following amended paragraph:

[0122]   An alternative method of closing the auction is for the buyer to select the auction from a list of auctions available from the auction center 108 of FIG. 5 and to click on a button instructing the workflow engine 72 of FIG. 4 to close the auction.

Please replace paragraph [0125] with the following amended paragraph:

[0125]   The buyer defines a scenario by using web pages accessible from the analysis center 110 of FIG. 5. FIG. 21 shows one such web page that lists scenarios associated with an auction called "Electrical." As is apparent from this web page, the buyer has not yet created any scenarios

for this auction. The illustrated web page invites the buyer to do so by providing a "Create Scenario" button that leads to the web page shown in FIG. 22.

Please replace paragraph [0127] with the following amended paragraph:

[0127] The "Manual Awards" check box of FIG. 22, when checked, instructs the optimization engine 76 of FIG. 4 to allow the buyer to manually specify certain awards and to include in the optimal award schedule only those requisitioned items that have not been manually awarded to any supplier. This option of manually specifying certain awards may be necessary, for example, if a buyer has a pre-existing requirements contract with a supplier.

Please replace paragraph [0128] with the following amended paragraph:

[0128] The "Bundles" check box, when checked, instructs the optimization engine 76 of FIG. 4 to include bundled bids in determining the optimal award schedule. When left unchecked, the optimizer ignores all bundled bids.

Please replace paragraph [0144] with the following amended paragraph:

[0144] FIG. 30 shows the objective function that is minimized by the optimization engine 76 of FIG. 4 in a particular scenario. The following parameters in the objective function are associated with supplier constraints and are therefore constant over all scenarios: